

and vast congressional districts in this country.

As Nevada's very first female representative in Congress, she focused on a variety of issues important to Nevadans, including Federal wilderness and national park policy, as we have heard earlier, public land use and nuclear waste policy issues that affected the State of Nevada.

In 1997, Mrs. Vucanovich retired as a senior Member of Congress, having served on the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Committee on House Administration and the chairman of the very powerful Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction.

The designation of the U.S. post office in Mrs. Vucanovich's hometown of Reno, Nevada would be a wonderful tribute to her tireless work and unfailing dedication to the citizens of the great State of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, echoing the remarks of Nevada's Governor Kenny Guinn, "I can think of few individuals who have devoted their lives to the people of Nevada in the manner that Barbara Vucanovich has over her many years of public service. She has served her community as a volunteer, government worker, and elected official. She has always fought hard for the people she represented."

Mrs. Vucanovich's dedicated service to her Nation is well-known throughout the halls of Congress. Mrs. Vucanovich's long history in this body as represented by the many colleagues on both sides of the aisle who still today call Barbara their friend. Many of my colleagues here today served alongside of Barbara Vucanovich and still remember with great fondness her distinguished career and outstanding achievements here in this body.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure to lead this effort to recognize my predecessor, former Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich, for her distinguished service in Congress and long-standing commitment to the citizens of the State of Nevada, as well as to our Nation as a whole.

I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to join with me today to honor former Congressman Vucanovich and pass H.R. 4169.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), my colleague and friend, for yielding me the time.

□ 1700

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to designate a post office in Reno, Nevada as the "Barbara F. Vucanovich Post Office Building".

Barbara was the very first woman elected to Congress from the great State of Nevada, and she blazed a trail for women during her seven terms of

Congress. She once lived in the congressional district that I have the honor of representing when she attended Manhattan College of Sacred Heart in New York City from 1938 through 1939, long before many women were routinely attending college.

I have very fond memories of working with Barbara Vucanovich on many bills before this Congress. In fact, one of the first bills when I came to Congress was one that we worked on together which would provide for annual mammograms in Medicare. We circulated a letter together and got, I think, probably every Member of this body to sign onto it.

At that time, when a woman was 65, mammograms were covered only every other year, which put many women at risk. It is early detection that is now saving women's lives, and it was an honor to work with her.

She cared very deeply about this issue for many reasons, one of which she was herself a breast cancer survivor. She often spoke about her experiences and really was instrumental in supporting research for breast cancer.

The bill that we worked on later became part of the balanced budget amendment and is now law. So I always think about Barbara when I read about this bill and when I think about all the breakthroughs that we are having now in breast cancer research, because she truly was a great leader in many areas. But on the Women's Caucus, I would say she was the leader on breast cancer research. Really, every woman in this country owes a great deal of gratitude for her service, for her leadership, and for her example.

So I thank very deeply the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for introducing this bill, and I certainly urge a yes vote. It is long overdue.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join in the remarks that have been made. I have not served with the gentlewoman from Nevada. I would add just that I think it is entirely appropriate that this legislation receive a unanimous support here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4169.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4169.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HENRY W. MCGEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3909) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4601 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3909

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HENRY W. MCGEE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4601 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3909.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would admit to some bias in the bill just passed and that, as a Member of this House, it brings a particular sense of pleasure to be able to bestow a naming honor upon a former colleague. However, as a citizen, and perhaps for the purposes of this initiative, more importantly as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service, I think it is particularly appropriate when we have, as we do on this particular bill, the opportunity to bestow an honor upon an individual who has dedicated, in this case, his life to service of the United States Postal Service itself.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) introduced this legislation on March 14. As the Clerk has read, it does designate the Postal Service facility at

4601 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building."

Mr. McGee began his life in Texas, in Hillsboro, Texas, but moved to Chicago in 1966. He began working for the Postal Service when he was just 20 years old and retired in 1973 after 45 years, 4½ decades of selfless and dedicated service to that great organization.

Mr. McGee was Chicago's very first African-American postmaster in 1966, and he was also the first career postmaster in the great city of Chicago. He thereafter went on to accrue long lists of achievements and accrue long lists of sacrifices on behalf of his community, on behalf of his country.

In World War II, he was a member of the Illinois State Militia. He made every effort to better himself through continued education and was a founding board member of the Rochelle Lee Fund for Children's Literacy where he also attempted to help the education and the betterment of so many others.

Sadly, Mr. McGee died in March of this year at the wonderful age of 90, but behind him left the kind of life from which all of us can derive a great deal of inspiration and certainly can derive a great deal of lessons as well.

I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for his initiative, and I urge all of our Members to join us in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 3909, and to further extend upon the remarks of the gentleman from New York (Chairman MCHUGH). I want to thank him for his efforts to bring this legislation to the forefront. It is true that Mr. McGee is someone vastly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) to speak on this matter, the prime sponsor of this bill.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor today. I also owe a great deal of gratitude to the entire Illinois delegation for their cosponsorship of this worthy piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of H.R. 3909, a bill that I introduced in March, which designates the United States Post Office located at 4601 South Cottage Grove in my district, the first district of Illinois, as the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building".

H.R. 3909 pays fitting tribute to Henry W. McGee, the first black postmaster of Chicago, who gave 44 years of outstanding service to the United States Postal Service.

Mr. McGee who died on March 18, just days after I introduced this bill, began his career in 1929 as a temporary substitute letter carrier. But Mr.

McGee determined that his position would not just be temporary and that he would not remain a substitute employee.

When he retired from the United States Postal Service in 1973, Mr. McGee was the general manager of the eight metropolitan districts of Chicago. Under his leadership, Chicago obtained a reputation among the best managed Post Offices in the Nation.

With Mr. McGee at the helm, the Chicago Postal Service was able to improve its delivery and its delivery rates and its delivery effectiveness in meeting the needs of its consumers.

While working hard to achieve his career goals, Mr. McGee continued to pursue his education, earning his bachelor of science degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1949. In 1961, Mr. McGee received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Chicago, while currently being promoted to personnel manager for the Chicago region of the Post Office department, which encompassed both the State of Illinois and also the State of Michigan. Five years later, Mr. McGee became the first black postmaster of Chicago appointed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

But the accomplishments of Mr. McGee do not end there. While working hard to promote his career and to gain an education, Mr. McGee found time to get involved in the community and take on issues greater than himself.

In 1939, Mr. McGee coordinated the arrangements for the annual convention of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. He had joined the group 2 years earlier, but he immediately began taking on a leadership role. In 1945, Mr. McGee became president of the Chicago branch of the National Alliance.

In 1946, he was selected to serve as president and acting executive director of the Chicago chapter of the NAACP. While there, he dedicated himself to the causes of ending segregation and fighting for equal justice.

In addition to the NAACP, he became one of the charter members of the Joint Negro Appeal, a self-help organization. As president, Mr. McGee served diligently for more than 17 years and raised many thousands of dollars to help neighborhood groups.

This legacy that Henry W. McGee leaves is both inspirational and impressive. I believe that this legislation is a fitting tribute to Henry W. McGee, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3909.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), another gentleman who is a member of the Illinois delegation and most importantly in reference to this legislation is a member of the Subcommittee on Postal Service, and serves with both

the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and myself and provides a great deal of leadership on the committee.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to, first of all, commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for introducing this very important legislation. I would also like to express appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Chairman MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), ranking member, for bringing this legislation to the floor.

I rise in support of H.R. 3909, which names the post office on South Cottage Grove after Henry McGee. I was fortunate to have worked for and with Henry McGee. As a matter of fact, one of the very first meaningful jobs that I ever had was a job working in the Chicago Post Office as a clerk. I can recall at that time that Mr. McGee was an esteemed executive; and one would hear his name being called on the intercom, practically all day in terms of somebody saying, Mr. McGee, please call your office, or Mr. McGee, you are wanted on floor 9, or Mr. McGee, you have a telephone call, or you have a message. Many of us were young people wondering who was this guy McGee. I mean, all day long one constantly heard his name.

Then as we got to meet him and got to know him, we were tremendously impressed because he reminded us so much that it is not always a matter of where one begins, but oftentimes it is a matter of where one ends.

So here comes Henry McGee beginning as a temporary letter carrier at the very bottom of the process and then working his way all the way to the point of becoming postmaster of one of the largest postal operations in America.

But then as my colleagues have already noted, not only did he excel in terms of his chosen profession, but Henry McGee found the time while operating the Chicago Postal Service to also be actively involved in other civic and community affairs.

□ 1715

In addition to those already having been mentioned, he was also appointed by Mayor Daley to serve as a member of the Chicago Board of Education. And during those years, serving as a member of the Chicago Board of Education was kind of like being in the military. A board member needed to get hazardous duty pay. And yet Henry McGee was able to do all of that.

He was also a great churchman and was seriously involved in his church and was consistently known as the guy who kept the records, who always made sure that the money was handled properly and was accounted for. Not only did he raise money, but he also accounted for money.

But then he lived to be 90 years old and to be actively engaged even up to that point. People often talk about a lack of role models, a lack of individuals in African-American communities

especially or minority communities in general. I think that young people need not look any further than to look to the Henry McGees of the world, a man who started at the bottom but rose to the top of his profession and ended life as an outstanding and esteemed American.

Again, I certainly commend and thank my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for taking the time to recognize this great American, and I certainly would urge that we all support this legislation.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank once again my colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) in particular, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for bringing the life and legacy of Mr. McGee forward to this House in this way.

I think that among the many, many pieces of legislation that we will pass in this session naming post office facilities, this one is more appropriate than most in the sense that this gentleman worked his entire life in the postal service making sure that the mail, notwithstanding the weather, was delivered and delivered accurately. He is a gentleman who has a great and varied background, including his work on the board of the children's literacy effort in Illinois, which is something that I appreciate and admire him for.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the ranking member for his efforts through this continuing labor on behalf of the subcommittee. I understand he has to go off for other business while we complete the final bill, but, as always, he has been a leader and an engine of cooperation.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCHUGH. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I would just advise my colleague that my daughter is in my office, and I have been holding her up, so I am going to yield the remainder of the time for another member of the committee to manage the last remaining bill.

Mr. MCHUGH. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. We always know, whether the gentleman is on the floor or somewhere else, that he is working on all our behalves, and I mean that with all sincerity.

Before I yield back, Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with virtually all the speakers on the other side of the aisle. I think they made very poignant, very appropriate comments about the appropriateness of this particular bill.

As I tried to indicate in my opening remarks, this is a special bill, amongst a series of special bills. This gentleman, through his efforts in the postal service and this gentleman through his efforts in his community, as the

gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) so aptly put it, can indeed serve as a source of inspiration, of leadership far beyond any minority community but across the wide horizon. He is the kind of individual and gentleman to which all peoples, young and old alike, can look to for real landmarks in how to guide and live their lives.

So this is a particularly fine bill, and I am proud to be here today with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and others who have made it possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3909.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAMUEL H. LACY, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4447) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 919 West 34th Street in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Samuel H. Lacy, Sr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4447

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SAMUEL H. LACY, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 919 West 34th Street in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the "Samuel H. Lacy, Sr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Samuel H. Lacy, Sr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4447.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this final bill, regardless of its sequence in the legislative calendar, is certainly equal to the high

standards that have been set not just here today on the floor but I think historically through this Congress with respect to postal namings.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for working so hard to bring this very meritorious piece of legislation before us. As the Clerk said, it does seek to designate the United States Post Office facility located at 919 West 34th Street in Baltimore, Maryland, as the Samuel H. Lacy, Sr. Post Office. And as was true with the previous three initiatives, Mr. Speaker, each Member here too of the House delegation from the great State of Maryland has joined the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) in co-sponsoring this bill.

All of us who come to this floor find ourselves laboring beneath a podium that is suspended above the House here that is the place put aside to seat the members of the various media. And, indeed, those of us who have the honor of serving this House and in government and politics sometimes find ourselves in an interesting love-hate relationship with many members of the media. But I think it is fair to say for all of us that, at the end of the day, despite our occasional disagreements, those of us in public office have a great deal of respect, a great deal of admiration for those who serve in that capacity of keeping the people of this country informed. Certainly our Constitution, our Founding Fathers and founding mothers, understood the importance of a free press and an active press, and one that was never afraid, never too shy to come forward and to report the facts and the truth as they saw it.

My understanding of Mr. Lacy is that he has dedicated his life to that kind of effort. And, in fact, he has accrued some 60 years in journalism, working in radio, television, and the print media. He was a renowned sportswriter and editor for the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper, starting back in 1944. And, in fact, even to this day he still resides in the great city of Baltimore and still works in journalism, adding each and every hour of each and every day to that fine list of achievements.

So we have, I think, a very fitting finale to our four-bill calendar today, seeking to honor this gentleman who has served in the media, fulfilled that solemn commitment that is embodied in our Constitution of a free and unfettered press, in defense of the first amendment and freedom of speech. So I want to again thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his initiative, and certainly urge all our Members and colleagues to support this very worthy bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.